



MIAMI BEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

NO. LTC # **144-2012**

LETTER TO COMMISSION

TO: Mayor Matti Herrera Bower and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Jorge M. Gonzalez, City Manager

DATE: May 24, 2012

SUBJECT: WASD Emergency By-pass Force Main

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CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

The purpose of this Letter to Commission is to provide you with information on the proposed construction by the Miami-Dade County Water and Sewer Department (WASD) of an emergency by-pass force main in the South Pointe Neighborhood.

The Port Of Miami will be dredging Government Cut to allow the new super post-panamax vessels access to the seaport. In advance of the dredging, the Miami-Dade County Water and Sewer Department (WASD) is installing a new 54-inch wastewater force main under the Government Cut navigation channel that will replace the existing force main that is too shallow for the proposed depth of Government Cut.

The new force main was proposed to reconnect to the existing force main at Fisher Island and at a shaft in the water southeast of the Miami Beach Marina. The construction methodology called for the contractor to expose and support the 54-inch main and to install a by-pass through a "hot" tap, connecting the by-pass to the 54-inch force main while sewage is flowing through it.

However, while assessing the condition of the existing force main, WASD found several sections upstream of the proposed "hot" tap location that were in danger of failing. At the March 21, 2012 City Commission meeting, WASD made a presentation in which it stated that it needed to make an emergency by-pass around these three sections of its force main. The City Commission then directed WASD to proceed in the "safest, fastest, and least impactful" way.

To accomplish this, WASD indicated that it would need to construct a new shaft on Miami Beach, similar to the one on Fisher Island. It provided several alternatives to the City (Attachment A). City staff reviewed the alternatives and recommended a route along the west side of the Apogee that it believed to be the safest, fastest, and least impactful route for constructing the by-pass (Attachment B).

WASD conducted negotiations with representatives of the Apogee that were ultimately unsuccessful. As a result, on April 26, 2012, WASD decided to move forward with its route through South Pointe Park, Washington Avenue, and Commerce Street, which it believes meets the directive of the City Commission.

Since that time, staff has been meeting with WASD to ensure that it develops a schedule and construction methodology that provides the safest, fastest, and least impactful project. At a meeting held with City staff on May 22, 2012, WASD presented a plan with a preliminary schedule of activities (Attachment C). This included the construction of Phase 2 beginning on June 19, 2012 and finishing on June 27, 2013; the construction of Phase 3 beginning on August 6, 2012 and finishing in October 2012; and the construction of Phase 4 beginning in March 2013 and finishing in June 2013.

The timing of Phase 3 has been coordinated with Staff to minimize impacts to residents and adjacent businesses such as Joe's Stone Crab, which closes from August 5th to October 12th. However, Staff raised objections to the timing of the other work and to certain technical aspects of it. In addition, staff is requiring WASD to provide a technical report on the safety measures it will take to protect the lighthouse, to relocate the trees in the park and to plant similar ones upon project completion, and to install a signal at the intersection of South Pointe Drive and Alton Road.

Staff informed WASD that the City Commission has the ultimate authority to grant (or not grant) the easements necessary for this work and to impose conditions upon any approval.

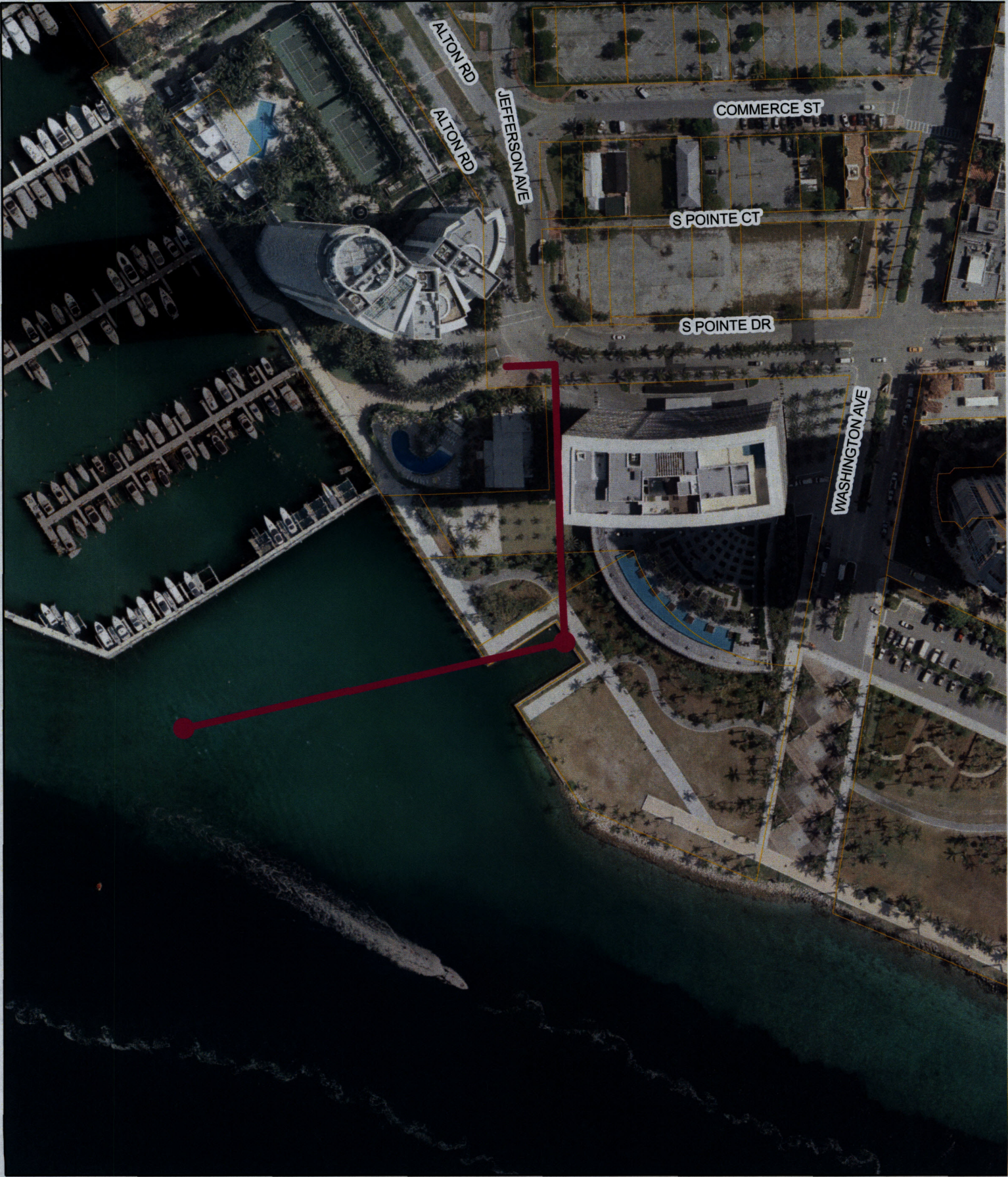
WASD has committed to holding a public meeting at South Pointe Elementary School in early June to discuss this project with residents, businesses, and other stakeholders.

Attachments:

- A. WASD Emergency By-pass Alternatives
- B. City Proposed Emergency By-pass Alternative
- C. WASD Proposed Project Construction Phasing


JGG/FHB/JJF/RWS

Sketch of Proposed Force Main Location



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EMERGENCY 60" FORCE MAIN
 INSTALLATION FISHER ISLAND
 TO MIAMI BEACH

OVERALL PROJECT ALIGNMENT

